Health problems due to contaminated water

2119. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per WHO report 80 per cent of health problems and 1/3rd of all deaths in the country are on account of contaminated Ganga water;

(b) whether as per reports contaminated river water reaches into the ground water system affecting water supply and agriculture; and

(c) what is hampering the action plan to cleanse the waters, control pollution, save the crops from contamination etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) According to the World Health Organisation, New Delhi, no such report has been published. However, river water may get contaminated due to sewage and industrial discharges and may cause adverse impacts on ground water and agriculture.

(c) The action plans for cleaning the river water are in different stages of implementation on various rivers covered under National River Action Plan. Constraints in river cleaning programme include increase in waste water discharges in comparison to the designed capacity of sewage treatment plants (STPs) due to the rapidly growing population, improper maintenance and operation of STPs non-availability of electric power for operation of STPs including pumping of sewage to STPs. The implementing agencies have been asked to take mitigative measures including action against the defaulting industrial units by the regulatory authorities.